

Dear all

As you probably know last year Greenpeace and the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition worked together calling for a global moratorium on high seas bottom trawling . Here is an update at the end of 2005 and an outline of what's happening this year.

The Fishing and Oceans resolution were debated and voted on in the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Monday 28 November 2005.

In short, the General Assembly once again called on nation states to urgently address bottom trawling's destructive impact on high seas biodiversity and called for accelerated progress. But despite renewed calls from the scientific community and a growing number of countries supporting a global moratorium on bottom trawling, the General Assembly did not advocate or propose any specific actions to protect deep sea life.

Now for the good news. There are indications a global moratorium will be considered more seriously at this years UN General Assembly. In an unusual move, the UN Secretary-General will review actions states have taken to follow UN recommendations for protecting sensitive marine ecosystems (such as seamounts and cold water coral reefs) from destructive fishing, including using prohibitions. And also, in February 2006, there will be a special UN session on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the high seas. So stay tuned and we'll send you updates as we have them.

For more details go to the feature on the Greenpeace Australia Pacific site

<http://www.greenpeace.org.au/>

or the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition site <http://www.savethehighseas.org/index.cfm>

In case you missed it the 12 November edition of New Scientist cover story was "The Deep" -- a 15 page special on the earth's most fabulous realm. The introduction said:

"The deep sea is by far the largest habitat on the planet. And one of the harshest: cold, dark, often low in vital oxygen, and under a pressure so immense it alters the very chemistry of cells. Yet everywhere we look we are finding life, sometimes in extraordinary abundance. Over the next 15 pages, we cover a few of the astounding discoveries made in recent years: from the bizarre afterlife of whales to the unexpected connection linking ecosystems around deep hydrothermal vents with the sunlit world far above. With only a fraction of the deep explored so far, there is much more still waiting to be found."

Here is the link: <http://www.newscientist.com/channel/earth/deep-sea>

This is the first of an occasional email bulletin with updates on the project to stop the destructive fishing practice of bottom trawling on the high seas until sustainable management measures are developed and implemented.

If you do not want to receive these occasional updates please reply to clare.henderson@webone.com.au with a note in the subject line saying unsubscribe.

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Deep Sea Conservation Coalition